

Reply Brief
Appl. No. 10/660,337
Filed: December 17, 2009

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND
INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/660,337
Filing Date: December 17, 2009
Appellants: Ernest et al.

Primary Examiner:
Kevin Bates

REPLY BRIEF

This reply brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer filed September 14, 2009 responding to the Appellants' Appeal Brief filed and amended on March 24, 2009 in response to the Office action mailed on August 14, 2009.

Response to Examiner's Arguments in Reply Brief

The Examiner has withdrawn rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claims 1-4, 7, and 15-20 and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 8, 10, 12-14 and 21-27.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C 112

The Examiner still asserts rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 1-4, 7-8, 10, and 12-27 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants' present invention introduces unique functionality whereby there is a substantial reduction in the storage and replication requirements for the locally initiated electronic mail messages, which include locally sourced attachments. In the method of the present invention, at the origination location of an electronic message, there is an identification of electronic messages containing locally sourced attachment documents. During the storage of the transmitted message, there is determination of whether any attachment to the message was a locally sourced attachment. If the attachment was a locally sourced attachment, the attachment may not be stored with the message. Instead a pointer or link can be created to the original or locally sourced document. This approach will reduce the storage space required by electronic messages.

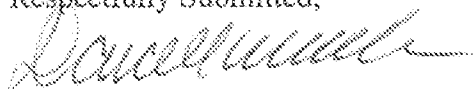
In an example of the application of Applicants' present invention, during the process of creating an electronic message, the user has the option to attach a document to the created message. When the user attaches a document to the message, this attachment process often creates another copy of the attached document. With some electronic mail systems, a copy of each transmitted message is also saved on a mail server. The document attached to the message is also saved with the message. In addition, some users choose to copy themselves on messages that they transmit (in this case, the sender location also becomes a destination location). In these cases, the attached documents are also copied and stored with the message. As a result, in many cases, the transmission of

attachment documents with electronic mail messages creates multiple copies of the same document. These multiple copies occupy substantial memory or storage space in a system.

Referring to claim 1, the sender location can also be the destination location when the sender is copying him/herself on the message in addition to sending it to a destination. In step 1, the electronic message is received, for example the copied (CC) message. The CC message is treated the same as any incoming message. In step 2, there is a determination of whether the message has an attachment document. When there is an attachment document, step 3 determines whether the attachment document was created at the location of the sender (which is also the destination location). When the determination is that the attachment document was originally created at the sender location, in step 4, the attachment document is deleted from the message at the sender location. This deletion can be for a reply message from a destination location. In some instances, reply messages contain the attachment document of the originally sent message. This deletion step would detect the reply message at the sender with the original attachment document from the sender. Step 6 also performs a deletion operation. This deletion step would detect received messages from the sender such as the copied (CC) messages. The deletion operation is performed regardless of whether the electronic mail message was from the original sender such as a copied (CC) message or from a reply message from the destination location.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that Examiner has withdrawn the novelty and obviousness rejections. Applicants submit that the claims amended to address the Examiner's rejections would put the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that no additional search would be required for the made to the claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. In view of the above arguments, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of the claims should not be sustained.

Respectfully Submitted,



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